

Equal Access

Volume 2, Issue 1, Winter 2008

In This Issue:

* Siskiyou
County Law
Library Expands
Services

* Free Access
To Pacer

*Criminal
Records Forum
A Success

* New Building
For Butte
County Law
Library

* Upcoming
Workshops

Newsletter of the
Council of California
County Law Librarians



Siskiyou County Law Library Expands Services

The Siskiyou County Public Law Library is pleased to announce its partnership with the Court Facilitator and Small Claims Advisor. The library is functioning as a self-help center since this partnership. The hours the library is open have been expanded to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excepting court holidays. There are now four public access computers available and connected to the Internet, with family law specific software, Westlaw and Hein Online for research. These programs allow the law library to offer more federal materials than ever before. To accommodate the self-help clinics and additional computers, the library has been revamped, including having shelves removed,

tables added and a power pole installed.

In an effort to expand services, the public law library also features wireless access. This service allows court and law library local area network. This wireless access is unrestricted, so the user will be assuming all risks regarding security and privacy.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week, the Court Facilitator and Small Claims Advisor conduct walk-in clinics for most of the day. There is also a Friday morning clinic from 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. To obtain specific information regarding clinic dates, please call 530-842-8380. Please drop by and visit our public law library and self-help clinics any time.

Free Access To Pacer

The San Bernardino County Law Library and the Sacramento County Public Law Library are pleased to announce FREE access to PACER (Public Access to Court Electronic Records). PACER allows users to obtain case and docket information such as listings of parties and participants in cases, chronologies case events, judgments and Appellate court opinions, and imaged copies of documents, can be accessed using this service. PACER normally carries an eight-cents-per-page access fee, which is used to fund the system's costs, however that fee will be waived. These California County Law Libraries are 2 of 16 libraries selected to participate in a joint pilot project of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the Government Printing Office to offer free PACER access. The pilot project, which will last up to two years, is part of the Federal Judiciary's continuing effort to expand public access to court records.

Criminal Records Forum A Success

The last Public Legal Education Forum of 2007 at the Riverside County Law Library was an unprecedented success as 125 residents, attorneys, and paralegals crammed into the library's North Wing on Tuesday, November 13 to hear one of Riverside's top criminal defense attorneys, Steven L. Harmon, Esq., speak on The ABC's of Criminal Records Expungement.

With Riverside courts processing only criminal cases right now and the obvious need for more information in this area, the Library will focus on more criminal topics for their 2008 Forums. They also intend to increase the number of these popular Forums from bi-monthly to monthly and add a new budget line for renting folding chairs.

*An estimated value is a precarious
measure of justice, compared with the
specific thing.*

Equal Access

County Law
Libraries

Open to the
Public

Established in
1891

Governed by a
Board of
Trustees

Funded by a
Portion of Court
Filing Fees

New Building For Butte County Law Library

The Butte County Law Library along with the City of Oroville and the Oroville Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting and reception on November 9th, 2007 for the relocation of their facility to the Oroville Carnegie Library located at 1675 Montgomery Street, in downtown Oroville.

The Library opened its doors to the public in July 2007 after much planning and months of construction. After sitting vacant, it was decided to return the library to its original intent, as a library.

Funding was provided by Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Corporation, which they have done for over 1600 public library buildings in over 1400 communities across the United States since 1889. Per the minutes from an Oroville City Council meeting in May of 1911, Andrew Carnegie paid \$10,000 for the land where the library now sits.

"It's a gorgeous building and an important part of Oroville's history", said John Zorbas, the Library Director for the past 12 years. The Law Library is open to the public and serves the legal community as well.

All in all, much collaboration was required to complete this project and a dream has become reality because of it. Congratulations to the Butte County Law Library and all who worked very hard to make it happen.



Upcoming Workshops

Fresno (in conjunction with Central California Legal Services)

Guardianship Workshops (Every 3rd Thursday of each month)

Kern

Small Claims Workshop: *Mondays & Fridays (10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.)*

Unlawful Detainer/Tenant Workshop: *Tuesdays Thursdays (10:00 a.m.)*

Unlawful Detainer/Landlord Workshop: *Wednesdays & Fridays (10:30 a.m.)*

How To Probate A Small Estate: *3rd Tuesday of each month (12:15 p.m.)*

Riverside

Tax Forms Assistance : *Every Tuesday in March, and April 1 & 8 (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)*

Sacramento

Legal Research on the Internet: *February 8, 2008 (2:00 - 5:00 p.m.) Fee: \$75 Members & NonMembers*

Estate Planning for IRA's: *February 21, 2008 (2:30 -4:30 p.m) Fee: \$55 Members & NonMembers*

San Diego

Law Made Public: Legal Research Class for the Public: *February 23, 2008 (2:00-3:00 p.m.). Free: SDCPLL Members, \$5: NonMembers*

Legal Research Using Free Websites: *February 20, 2008 (Noon-1 p.m.)*

San Mateo - Brown Bag Lectures

All lectures begin at 12 noon and are FREE
Drug Awareness Education for Parents and Caregivers: *February 14, 2008*

Eminent Domain: *TBA, March 2008*

Law for Landlords: *TBA, April, 2008*

Solano

LexisNexis Training: *February 27, 2008 (3:00 - 4:30 p.m.) Meeting Room: One Town Square*
Call: 707/421-6520 or 707/469-4590 for more information.

For more information on any event, visit the individual library website.